

Junior  
Certificate  
School  
Programme

# Girl, Missing Student Workbook

Sophie McKenzie

# Girl, Missing

STUDENT WORKBOOK

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## **Girl Missing**

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This workbook has been designed to support teaching and learning. It is not, of course, envisaged that students would have to complete every question.

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While you are reading and reflecting on the novel,  
you can also work towards achieving the following statement

## **WORKING WITH OTHERS**

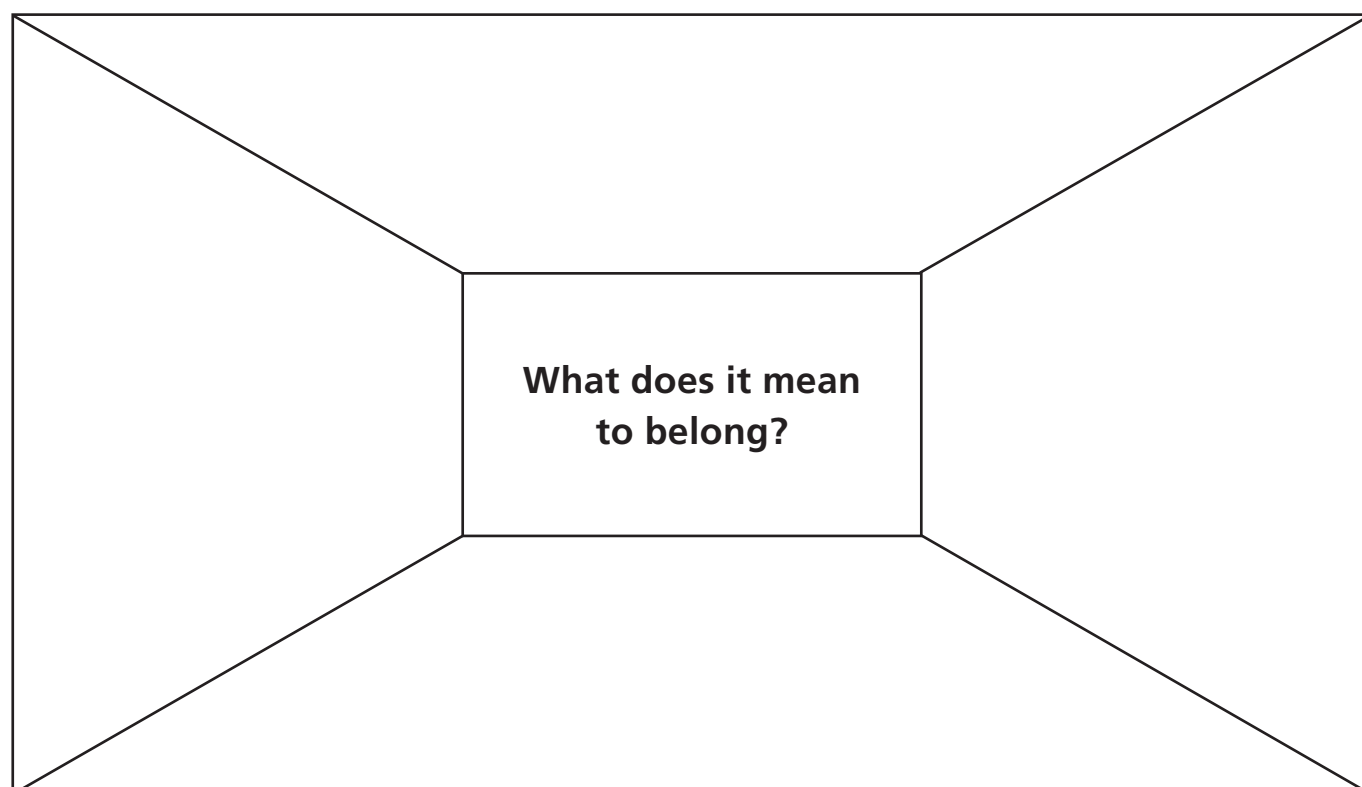
I can work with others and make a positive contribution to group activities by

- 1) Waiting my turn
- 2) Listening quietly when people are speaking
- 3) Looking at the person who is speaking
- 4) Agreeing goals with others in the group
- 5) Respecting the rights of others to have opinions different from mine
- 6) Being positive about other people's work
- 7) Asking people to explain what they said if I don't understand
- 8) Adding more information to what someone else has already said
- 9) Helping to summarise our ideas and information
- 10) Helping to resolve any conflicts
- 11) Doing my share of the work on time
- 12) Taking my turn to carry out different roles agreed by the group – reporter/  
note-taker/summariser/time-keeper/team leader etc
- 13) Helping other group members with their work if I am finished early
- 14) Helping to keep the group on task
- 15) Helping others to feel included

Using a placemat like the one below discuss the question: **What does it mean to belong?**

Your teacher may give you a placemat or ask each group to draw one.

First, think about it quietly and write what you think in your own section. In turn, everyone shares what they have written with others in the group. Write down the points agreed by the group in the centre of the placemat. Each group can then report what they have written to the class.



Read the blurb on the cover of the novel. Does it make you want to read the book? Why?

Think about your reader identity:

- What sort of books do you like to read?
- What are you reading now?
- Have your tastes in reading changed as you have got older?
- Do you like to talk about books?

## CHAPTER 1

1) Who is narrating (telling) the story?

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2) What is she supposed to write about?

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3) Who is Jam?

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4) Why does she laugh out loud?

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## CHAPTER 1

5) What does she ask her mother?

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6) Why do you think her mother looks terrified?

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7) What problems does Lauren have to confront in her search for the truth?

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8) Which website does she open?

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## CHAPTER 1

9) What do you think will happen next?

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10) Design the home page of a similar website. What would you include?

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The website:



## CHAPTER 2

1) Describe what Jam looks like.

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2) Why do Jam and Lauren's mum look at her as if she is mad?

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3) Why did Lauren minimise the screen when Jam came to the door?

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4) Why do you think Jam's grin didn't quite reach his eyes?

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## CHAPTER 2

5) What is an age-progressed photograph?

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6) Describe the picture on the screen.

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7) How do you think it makes Lauren feel?

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8) Why does Jam say it might not be a good idea to talk about it to her parents?

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## CHAPTER 2

9) Do you agree with Jam?

Can you think of any other reasons that Lauren's parents do not talk about her childhood?

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10) If you were Lauren's friend, what would you suggest she should do now?

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## CHAPTER 3

1) Where does Lauren keep the 'missing' poster?

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2) Describe Lauren's dad's routine when he comes in from work.

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3) Why does he get annoyed with Rory?

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4) Describe the atmosphere in the room when Lauren's mother comes back.

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## CHAPTER 3

5) How do you think she felt when Lauren said she wasn't her real mother?

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6) Why do you think Lauren shivered?

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7) What did her mother say she would do when Lauren is sixteen?

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8) Why do you think she wants to wait?

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## CHAPTER 3

Now go to the author's website <http://www.sophiemckenziebooks.com/>

Under the **FREE STUFF** tab you'll find deleted chapters.

Read the original chapter three.

Why do you think the author changed her mind about using this chapter?

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Which of the chapters would you have used if you were the author? Why?

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## CHAPTER 4

1) What does Jam suggest Lauren should do?

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2) Describe what Jam looks like.

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3) Is there any evidence in this chapter to suggest that he is attracted to Lauren?

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4) What is Jam's mother called?

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## CHAPTER 4

5) What does Jam call Lauren's mother when he rings from his house?

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6) Where did Lauren's parents first meet her?

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7) Why did Lauren not hear her phone ring?

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8) How did she react when she realised the adoption agency was in America?

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**CHAPTER 4**

9) Why does she decide not to confront her mother?

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10) How would you suggest she finds out more about the agency?

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**ACTIVITY: THINK-PAIR-SHARE**

You have already discussed what it means to belong. Do you think that Lauren feels that she belongs with her family? Compare your answer and your reasons for it with your partner's. Be ready to share your thoughts with the rest of the class if asked to do so.

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## CHAPTER 5

1) Describe what Jam has for tea.

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2) What did Carla tell the new games teacher?

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3) What does Lauren decide to ask Carla?

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4) What did Carla give them for Biology homework the last time Lauren was there?

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## CHAPTER 5

5) How does she refer to Lauren's mother?

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6) What does Carla agree to do?

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7) Before reading on, imagine what Lauren might remember. Write down her thoughts.

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CHAPTER 5

Having read chapters 1 – 5, write what you have already found out about Lauren in the **K** section of the K-W-L below

Know	What I Want to Know	What I Have Learned

## CHAPTER 5

## ACTIVITY: DIARY

Imagine that you are the missing Martha Lauren's real mother. Write the diary entry you might have written the day after she disappeared.

Dear diary,

[illegible]

## CHAPTER 6

1) What does Jam call Carla's Room of Utter Peace?

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2) Describe the room.

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3) What did Carla ask her to imagine?

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4) Describe the scene that came into Lauren's mind.

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## CHAPTER 6

5) How did she feel when Carla woke her?

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6) Do you think Carla should have put Lauren into a state of deep relaxation like this?  
Why?

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7) In your opinion, what are the themes of this book?

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8) Can you predict what Lauren will do next?

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## CHAPTER 7

1) What is Rory's current obsession?

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2) Why is Lauren being nice to Rory?

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3) Calculate how much it would cost a family of four to fly from Ireland to Boston. What factors do you have to consider?

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4) How does Lauren intend to get from Boston to Marchfield?

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## CHAPTER 7

5) Why does her mother change her mind about going on holiday?

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6) Why does her mother mention sleeping arrangements?

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### ACTIVITY: THINK-PAIR-SHARE

With your partner discuss the following.

Does the end justify the means? In other words, was Lauren right in trying to manipulate Rory, her mother and her father? Justify your answer.

Be ready to share your opinions with the class if asked to do so.

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## CHAPTER 8

1) What had caused a nasty panic on the Thursday evening?

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2) How does Lauren describe Jam?

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3) What does Jam say about the money?

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4) What story did they tell the girl at the ticket desk?

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## CHAPTER 8

5) Describe the dream Lauren had when she was on the bus.

What do you think this tells us?

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6) What does she realise she had forgotten to do?

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7) Picture Main Street in your mind.

What sort of atmosphere do you think the author is trying to create?

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8) Why do you think Jam's heart was beating so fast?

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## CHAPTER 8

## ACTIVITY: WRITING

Imagine you are Lauren's mother and you have discovered she is missing. Write some of the texts she might have sent to Lauren.

[illegible]

## CHAPTER 9

- 1) Look at the title of this chapter. Why do you think the author chose this title?  
What does it suggest?

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- 2) Describe what the agency building looks like.

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- 3) Is there anything that makes you think Mr. Tarsen might have something to hide?

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- 4) What reasons does Mr. Tarsen give for not being able to help Lauren?

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## CHAPTER 9

5) Why does Lauren mention Sonia Holtwood?

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6) What does Mr. Tarsen say about her?

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7) Why do you think he gives Lauren \$150?

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8) What does Jam say they will have to do?

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**CHAPTER 9**

9) Imagine you are Mr. Tarsen. Describe what you think he will do next.

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**ACTIVITY: K-W-L**

Before you read any further go back to the K-W-L you started after reading chapters 1-5. We have only found out part of Lauren's story. Now write in the **W** section what else you would like to know.

**CHAPTER 10**

1) Do you think this is a good title for this chapter? Give reasons for your answer.

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2) Where are Lauren and Jam?

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## CHAPTER 10

3) Why do you think the girl who comes to the door giggles?

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4) Why does Jam blush?

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5) How does the author create a sense of danger as Lauren and Jam make their way to the Marchfield Adoption Agency?

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6) Why does the burglar alarm not go off?

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## CHAPTER 10

7) How do they open the filing cabinet?

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8) What does Lauren find in her file?

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Go to <http://www.davecalder.freeuk.com/schools/poemer5.htm> and click on the poem *Just Friends* by David Calder.

What does this poem suggest about friendship? Do you think this description of friendship fits Lauren and Jam's relationship? Would Jam agree with you?

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**CHAPTER 10**

**Revision: Before continuing reading try the activity below**

1. When you have finished reading chapters 1-10, work in pairs to create five questions (with answers!) based on those chapters.

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2. Collect all the questions and answers and compile into a Table Quiz for the following class.

**CHAPTER 11**

1. A conflict happens between Jam and Lauren. Explain, in your own words, what the disagreement is about and **how it is resolved**.

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CHAPTER 12

Lauren and Jam have now travelled to another town, Lincoln Heights. Describe in your own words what you imagine the town to look like but **use quotes to back up your opinion**. If you would prefer to draw the images that the words have created for you that is fine, but you must use quotes to accompany the drawing.

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Who do Jam and Lauren meet in Lincoln Heights?

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## CHAPTER 13

1. What does Lauren learn about Sonia Holtwood?

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2. What does Lauren learn about her childhood and her own time spent in Lincoln Heights?

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3. Lauren makes the decision not to call the Police or Social Services or the Missing-Children.com website. Do you think this is a wise decision? Give reasons for your answer.

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## CHAPTER 13

4. Lauren does not want anyone, other than herself, making decisions about what to do. What does this tell you about her personality?

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5. Lauren and Jam now find they have been cheated by the cab driver. What do you think they should do and why?

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## CHAPTER 14

There is a building of suspense in this chapter. ***Outline the events that create the suspense.***

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CHAPTER 14

1. Jam and Lauren get into the car because they think the woman is a policewoman and they will be safe. Do you think they were right to do this? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?

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2. Who is the real driver of the car and how does she know where to find Jam and Lauren?

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3. What do you think she will do to Jam and Lauren?

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## CHAPTER 14

4. What important information does Lauren learn from Sonia?

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## CHAPTER 15

1. Lauren and Jam now find themselves where?

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2. Does the information Lauren has learned from Sonia help her in discovering who she really is?

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## CHAPTER 15

3. Another conflict occurs between Jam and Lauren. Why? What happens between them?

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4. At the end of the chapter, Lauren is now all on her own. What do you think is going to happen to her?

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5. *"It would take me to the woman on the beach. It would take me home."* What do you think Lauren means by this?

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**CHAPTER 16**

1. Lauren keeps having the same or a similar dream. Describe the dream.

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2. Do you think it is just a dream or do you think it is a memory? What is the difference between a dream and a memory? Do you think they are ever the same?

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3. *"Little one, you found me"* and *"If I could only find her, then everything else would make sense. I would know who I was at last."* Discuss these quotes with your partner. What do they tell us about Lauren? Together, write a paragraph or two explaining how these quotes might help answer our essential question: *"What does it mean to belong?"*

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**CHAPTER 16**

4. Who is the “weirdo hermit butcher”? Why does Lauren describe him this way?

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5. Do you think Lauren and Jam are now safe?

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**CHAPTER 17**

1. Glane says, “*But Lauren, this is all inside your head. It is not real.*”

- a. What do you think Glane is referring to?

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## CHAPTER 17

b. Do you think this is a nice thing to say to Lauren? Why or why not?

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c. Do YOU think Glane is correct and it is all inside her head?  
Give reasons for your answer.

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2. We also discover that Jam was upset to leave Lauren on her own in the snowy woods. What does this tell you about their friendship?

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## CHAPTER 17

3. Using any of the chapters read so far, list 3 examples of *internal* conflict and the character experiencing it and 3 examples of *external* conflict identifying the character(s) involved.

[illegible]

CHAPTER 18

1. **With your partner:** On the character trait sheet identify for each character listed three or more traits that you believe belong to the character and explain the evidence in the novel that supports your opinion.

Character	Trait	Evidence	Trait	Evidence	Trait	Evidence
Lauren						
Jam						
Glane						

## CHAPTER 18

2. Lauren finally calls her mother. What is her mother's reaction to hearing from Lauren?

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3. Does Lauren's mother tell Lauren about her childhood and how she came to be adopted?

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4. At the end of the chapter Lauren goes to log on to the internet. What do you think she is going to do?

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5. Write a diary entry from Lauren's mother's point of view after the call from Lauren.

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## CHAPTER 18

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## CHAPTER 19

1. Lauren now thinks that her parents were involved in her kidnapping.  
Why does she believe this?

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2. **Discuss with your partner:** Do YOU think her parents were involved in her kidnapping?  
Give reasons for your opinion.

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## CHAPTER 19

3. Who is Martha Lauren Purditt?

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4. Glane says to Lauren, *"This seeking out your birth family will not tell you who you are. It will only tell you if you are somebody's missing child."* What do you think Glane means by this and do you think he *might* be right?

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5. Glane then says, *"Lauren, I think you see dreams. You are not seeing what is real. What is right under your nose."* What do you think he is trying to say to Lauren?

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6. What do the notches on Jam's PSP symbolise?

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## CHAPTER 19

7. **Essay:** Write an essay using the sentence: *"It was right under my nose but I didn't see it."*

## CHAPTER 20

1. Where are Lauren, Jam and Glane going and why?

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2. Lauren is still arguing with her parents and she is angry with them.  
Do you think she is being fair to them?

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3. Some might say what Lauren is doing is brave. Some might say she is foolish.  
Do you think she is being brave or foolish? Give reasons for your answer.

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## CHAPTER 20

4. What do you think will happen when she knocks on the door?

## CHAPTER 21

### ACTIVITY: PREDICTION

Write five sentences describing what you think happens next.

## CHAPTER 21

Now read chapter 21. How accurate were you?

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## CHAPTER 22

1) Where is Lauren?

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2) Why is she so confused?

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**CHAPTER 22**

3) Why does MJ suggest that Lauren have a DNA test?

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**ACTIVITY: THINK-PAIR-SHARE**

With your partner discuss the following.

Do you have any sympathy for Lauren's parents? Justify your answer.

Be ready to share your opinions with the class if asked to do so.

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**CHAPTER 23**

1) Describe how the DNA test was carried out.

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2) How does Aunt Bea react to Lauren?

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3) Why does Lauren's mother not allow her to contact Jam?

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4) Lauren says she had thought of her other life as a fantasy. What does the word *fantasy* mean? If you were writing a fantasy, what elements would you include?

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CHAPTER 23

ACTIVITY: WRITING

Write the opening paragraph of a fantasy story. Be as creative as you like.

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Share your paragraph with someone in your class. Ask him/her to write the next paragraph!

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**CHAPTER 23****ACTIVITY: ORAL WORK**

Now read each other's paragraph to the other people in your group or the class. As you listen, try to remember some interesting ideas and words that you might like to use at another time.

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**CHAPTER 24**

1) Lauren says she felt a weird jolt in her stomach. What do you think is happening?

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2) Imagine the scene from Rory's viewpoint. Why do you think he reacts in this way?

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## CHAPTER 24

3) How does the FBI agent describe Lauren's adoptive parents?

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4) What is a 'best interest placement'?

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5) How do you imagine Lauren feels when she hears she may be 'going home'?

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## CHAPTER 25

1) Having read the chapter, what do you think the title represents?

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**CHAPTER 25**

2) Why did Lauren have to go to the counsellor?

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3) What did Jam promise to do?

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4) Do you think that Lauren is in prison? Explain your answer.

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**ACTIVITY: K-W-L**

Before you read any further go back to the K-W-L you started after reading chapters 1-5. Write in the **L** section what you have found out about Lauren's story so far.

## CHAPTER 26

1) What does the yellow ribbon represent?

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2) Imagine that you are Annie. What thoughts might be going through her mind at this time?

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3) At the end of this chapter Lauren says that things were about to get a lot worse. What do you imagine is going to happen?

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## CHAPTER 27

1) What age was Shelby when Lauren disappeared?

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## CHAPTER 27

2) What had Madison imagined? Why do you think she had thought this?

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3) Madison says she likes imagining being other people. What does this suggest to us?

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4) What news did MJ have?

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5) Who does MJ believe?

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**CHAPTER 27****ACTIVITY: INTERVIEW**

Working with a partner, imagine that one of you is Taylor Tarsen and the other is one of the police-officers interviewing him. Brainstorm the questions that he would be asked and how he would answer. Now carry out the interview. Then you can swap roles if you like. You might like to act out the interview in front of the class.

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**CHAPTER 28**

1) What have Lauren's adoptive parents been charged with?

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## CHAPTER 28

2) Why does Lauren push the cake away?

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3) What does Shelby say her parents want?

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4) Why do you think she is being so cruel?

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5) Describe Lauren's room.

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## CHAPTER 28

- 6) Do you think the woman Lauren says she had dreamed still exists, somewhere inside Annie?

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## CHAPTER 29

- 1) How did Sonia Holtwood pick her new identities?

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- 2) Why are the Purditts trying to prevent Lauren's adoptive parents from having access visits? Do you think the Purditts are justified?

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## CHAPTER 29

3) Why does Annie say she stopped living when Lauren went missing?

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4) What does she say that stuns Lauren?

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## CHAPTER 30

1) How does Lauren describe how Madison looks at the beginning of this chapter?

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## CHAPTER 30

2) Why does she look like this?

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3) Were we given any hint of this earlier in the novel?

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4) Who does Lauren think the text is from?

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5) Do you think she is right? Give reasons for your answer.

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## CHAPTER 31

In pairs, design 5 questions (with answers) from chapters 21-30 for a table quiz.

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1. Sam takes Lauren to meet her grandparents. Lauren finds it very easy to talk openly with her grandmother. Why do you think Lauren feels this way?

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2. What is her grandmother's name?

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CHAPTER 31

- Glane reappears! Discuss with your partner what role Glane has to play in the novel.  
 Hint: Think about the things he has said to Lauren – things that no one else does.  
 What effect does he have on Lauren?

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CHAPTER 32

- Who do you think would send such a threatening text to Lauren and why?

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**CHAPTER 32**

2. Lauren gets a surprise when Jam shows up in the middle of the night. How did he manage to get there?

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3. What do they decide to do? *Do you think their decision is a wise one?* Give reasons for your answer.

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**CHAPTER 33**

1. At the marina Lauren begins to think about all the people involved in her life who have been affected by her actions. **Discuss with your partner:** How has Lauren changed from the person she was at the beginning of the novel? Can you find evidence to show how she has changed and matured? Can you find any evidence of *internal conflict* in this chapter?

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CHAPTER 33

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2. The chapter ends with a *menacing text*: “Boat. Now. Or ur sister dies.” Who do you think sent this text? Has Lauren put Madison’s life in danger by her decision to bring Madison with her and Jam?

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3. What do you think is going to happen next?

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## CHAPTER 34

1. Where does Lauren find Madison? In what condition does she find her?

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2. Who else is there?

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## CHAPTER 35 & 36

1. What is Sonia going to do to Lauren and Madison?

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CHAPTER 35 & 36

2. What do you learn about Sonia and her involvement in kidnapping Lauren?

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3. There is a lot of suspense in these chapters. Can you explain how the author builds up the suspense so that we are now very worried about Lauren and Madison’s safety?

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4. Can you think of any way that Lauren and Madison can escape?

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## CHAPTER 37

1. Where do Frank and Sonia go?

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2. The boat is now taking on water. Is there any hope for Lauren and Madison?

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3. Where is Lauren's phone?

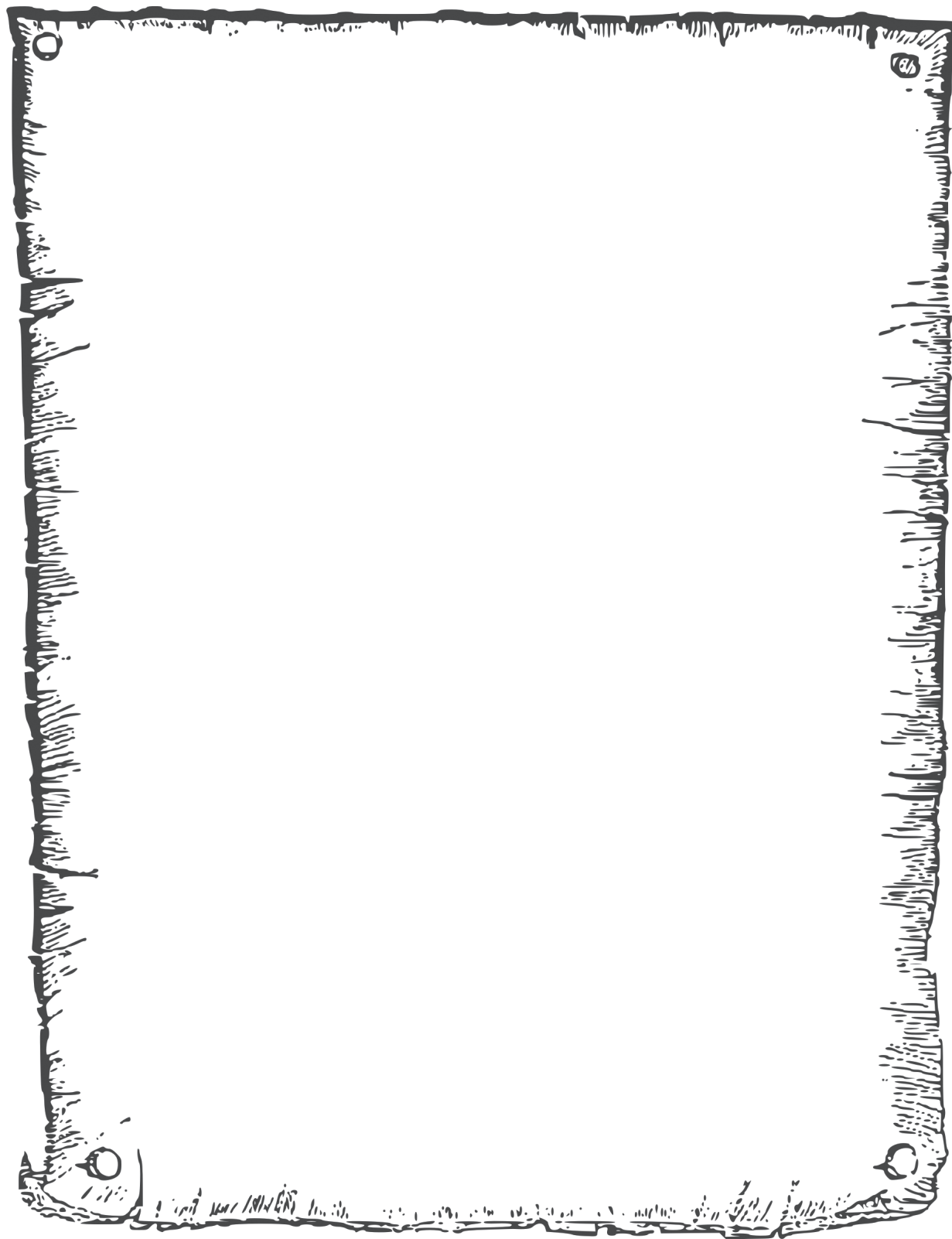
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## CHAPTER 37

4. Create a Wanted poster for Sonia



## CHAPTER 38

1. Describe in detail how Lauren and Madison manage to escape.

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2. Where do they end up?

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3. Madison is now hurt and unconscious. What do you think will happen next?

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## CHAPTER 38

4. Write a diary entry for Lauren as she sits in the hospital waiting for news of Madison's condition.

Dear diary,

[illegible]

**CHAPTER 39**

1. Lauren feels that she is to blame for Madison nearly dying. Do you think she should feel this way? Give reasons for your opinion.

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2. The doctors have also pointed out to Annie and Sam old bruises on Madison's stomach. Do you think Shelby will admit to abusing Madison?

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3. Is the recurring dream that Lauren has always had just a dream or does she discover that it is a memory? How is this confirmed to her?

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## CHAPTER 40

1. **Pre-reading:** The title for this chapter is **Decisions**. What decisions do you believe have to be made? Justify your opinion.

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2. Why do you think there is tension when Lauren's parents arrive at the Purditts'?

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3. Lauren makes her decision. Do you think it was the right one? Justify your answer.

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**CHAPTER 40**

4. Thinking about our question: **“What does it mean to belong?”** Write an essay that demonstrates how Lauren finds the answer to that question.

**REFLECTIONS ON THE NOVEL****ACTIVITY: K-W-L**

Think back to the K-W-L you started after reading chapters 1-5. Write in the **L** section what you have now found out about Lauren’s story.

- 1) How did you feel when you were reading this story? Did your emotions change as you read it?

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE NOVEL

2) Would you recommend this novel to someone else? Why/why not?

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3) Imagine you have been asked to write a short story about one of the characters.  
Which character would you choose? Why?

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**REFLECTIONS ON THE NOVEL**

- 4) We have looked at poetry already. Now let's think about haikus. Look up the meaning of a haiku and write the definition below. You may use an online dictionary if you wish, but don't forget to check your source.

**Definition:**

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Now go to <http://www.mediaconcepts.ie/jcsp/haiku1.html> and listen to some haikus written by students.

Choose a moment or event from *Girl, Missing* and write a haiku about it. You might like to work with a partner. Write your haiku here.

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE NOVEL

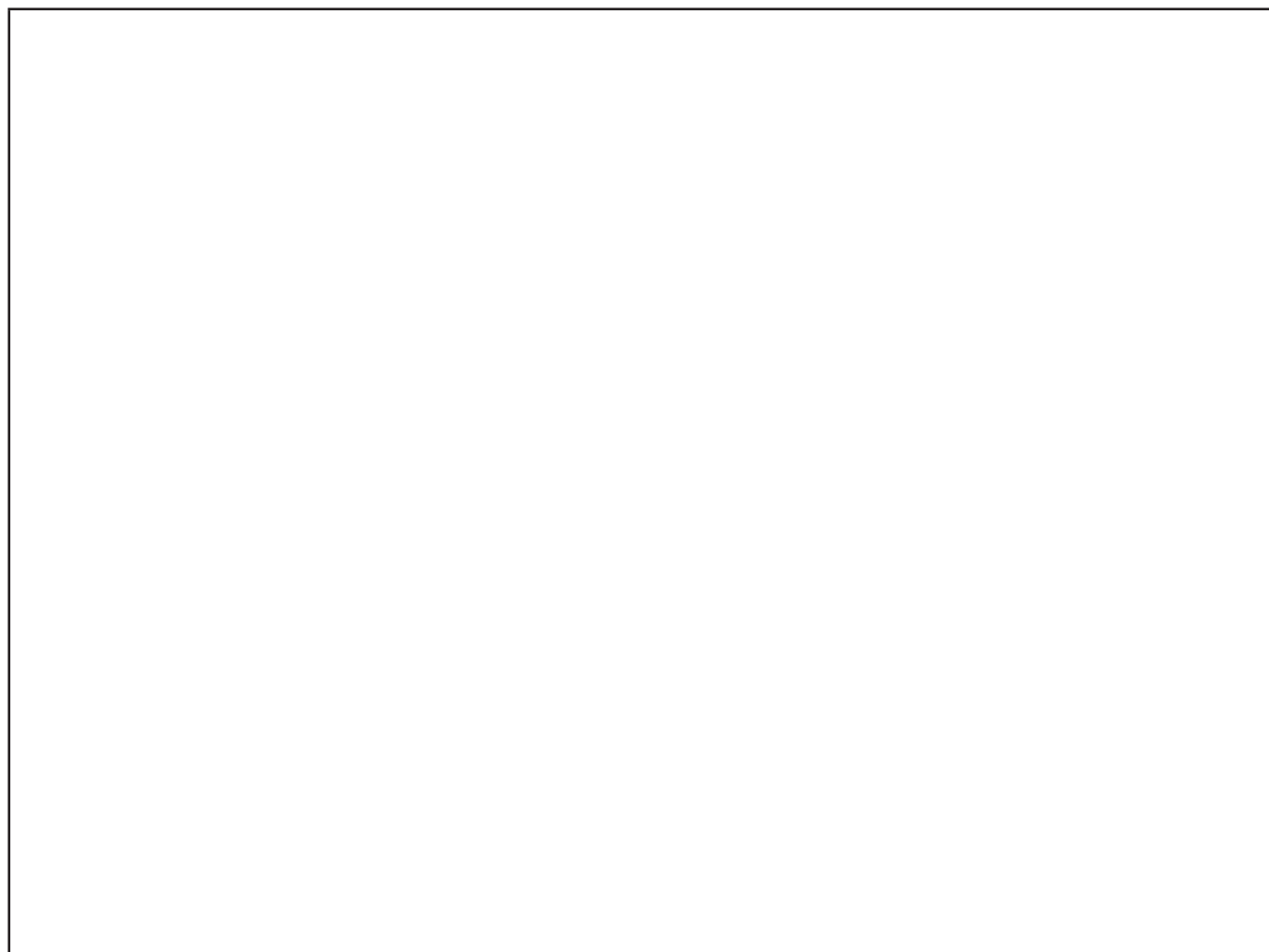
Did you enjoy writing it?

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Describe the picture that you would draw to accompany your haiku or find one online.



Why not read out your haiku to your class? You might even like to record it!